

than 10 hours of our time debating whether or not we should tell committees to do what they are already supposed to be doing.

Lake County, in my district, has 19 percent unemployment rate.

The people of Lake County know that we are not creating jobs by telling committees to do their jobs.

The people in my district, who are waiting on banks to call them back about their loan modification applications, know that this debate will not help them keep their homes.

There is real work to be done in Congress and this is not it.

I think we can stipulate that there are regulations that are redundant and unnecessary.

I, for one, know that a regulation from Federal Housing Finance Agency has shut down the incredibly successful Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

PACE is an innovative program in my district, and districts across this country, that has created jobs, saved energy, and slashed homeowners' utility bills.

Spending 10 hours of debate on this meaningless resolution is not going to reinstate the PACE program.

It is not going to bring back the jobs for the people who installed residential solar panels and weatherized houses under PACE.

This resolution is a lot of talk and no action. Committees have oversight responsibilities; it would be a much better use of our time to have simply scheduled 10 hours of Committee hearings on the matter.

A TRIBUTE TO LES OESTERREICH, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Les Oesterreich, a resident of Dixon, California, a man respected as an American, a husband to Pat Oesterreich, a father to their combined seven daughters, and a grandfather. Perhaps more germane to this moment is his position as chairman emeritus of Superior Farms, the largest harvester and processor of lamb in the United States. Under his leadership, the company has grown from having a single plant in Dixon, California, to having plants in Denver, Colorado, Boston, Massachusetts, Hawarden, Iowa, and Blue Island, Illinois, with contractual arrangements in Australia as well. Today, Superior Farms employs 494 employees and operates under an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), so that every employee has a stake in the company's bottom line.

As CEO of Superior Farms, Mr. Oesterreich skillfully guided the company by working with other industry organizations. He was honored in 2008 by the American Sheep Industry Association with its Campender Award. He served several terms as a director of the National Meat Association, and as chair of its Small Stock Committee. He was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture for his work with the Agricultural Marketing Service on the implementation of fair standards for lamb grading. He served on the Advisory Committee for the Animal Science Department

at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo and the University of California at Davis. His input to the American Lamb Board and the California Sheep Commission has guided those organizations, and during all these activities he has guided the growth and prosperity of Superior Farms to ensure that he recruited the brightest and best professional management talent available.

Mr. Oesterreich's father worked for Armour Food Co. for 35 years and he learned a lot about the meat business during his formative years in Brownsville, Texas, and Sterling, Illinois. He started work in the slaughter facilities at age 16, then learned how to load trucks, and was finally trained in meat cutting, all at Armour. He joined Superior Farms in 1981 as general manager of the Dixon, California, facility and moved up the chain of management, by dint of hard work, to become its CEO in 2004.

Off the job, he has served as president of the local fire district in Dixon; he is passionate about cars and horses; and he is a member of the American Quarter Horse Association.

As Mr. Oesterreich moves into retirement, he leaves behind an incredible legacy to be continued by the professionals that he has recruited to Superior Farms. Men like Mr. Oesterreich make the United States of America a wonderful place to live. Congratulations, Les Oesterreich!

HONORING LOU ELLA ROBINSON- WELTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lou Ella Robinson-Welton. Ms. Welton was born to the late Reverend John D. (Doc) Robinson, a Baptist Minister, and Ella Jones-Robinson, a homemaker, on April 10, 1921, in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She was the youngest of six and is the only surviving member. Her siblings were Russell, Frank, Arie, and Seavon and Cleavon (twins). She was married to Sammie Lee Welton Senior, also from Itta Bena, Mississippi, for 41 years until his death in 1986. Sammie Sr. was a World War II Disabled Veteran, a Purple Heart Recipient, a Radio Technician, Printer, and Retired Mississippi Valley State University Laundry Technician. They have 5 children: Vernola, Arie Lue, Sammie Jr., Joyce, and Wanda, all graduates of Mississippi Valley State University. Lou Ella has 12 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Lou Ella Robinson Welton is an educator, community activist, and for 42 years, was a full-time teacher to generations of students in and around Leflore County, and is affectionately known throughout her community as "Miss Welton." Miss Welton began her career as a teacher/educator when she graduated high school, taking her first teaching job when she was 18. Public schools for African Americans in the early 1900s were rare, so her family sent her to private boarding schools. She was the first in her family to complete high school and the only one to graduate college.

She began her education in Humphreys County but the family moved back to Leflore

County after only several months. She attended school at the Saint John's Palo Alto and the Leflore County Training Schools in Itta Bena and graduated from the Stone Street School in Greenwood, Mississippi in 1941. She attended Rust College, and later Mississippi Vocational College, now Mississippi Valley State University, when it was little more than a dream in the eyes of its first president, Dr. James Herbert White. Attending Saturday and summer sessions, she and her husband, Sammie (vocational degree in printing), were among the first graduating class of 1953. She was the only sibling to graduate from college and is one of only two surviving members of the first Graduating Class of 1953 at Mississippi Vocational College in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

After receiving her B.S. degree in elementary education, Miss Welton taught in the Leflore County School System for over 42 years. She taught elementary education, special education, and migrant education with an emphasis on independent living, during her career. She has attended numerous training programs at universities around the country and received certificates in many academic areas related to teaching.

Miss Welton has also been active in her community and church where she has lived for the last 89 years. She was a member of the church choir, Sunday School teacher, Home Mission Society, and still serves as a Mother of the church. Miss Welton has been a member of the Goodwill Industrial Club, which she co-founded (a group of women who assisted needy families), The Cancer Network Control, Leflore County Homemakers, and the Mississippi Education Association.

Her other activities have included selling a variety of commodities in the community that included: Avon, Shaklee, Sarah Coventry, World Book Encyclopedia and Sewing for anyone who wanted something special. She made costumes for many years for the sororities and fraternities at Mississippi Valley State University.

She worked part-time at the Roses Department Store and the Spotless Cleaners in Itta Bena, Mississippi. She has mentored numerous students who still call and come by to maintain the friendships that were garnered many years ago. She has a good memory and likes to talk about the good old days to former students, family and friends. Miss Welton remains active by attending local functions, Adult Day Care, talking on the telephone, and keeping abreast of current events through the newspaper and television.

IN HONOR OF ANN SOLDO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ann Soldo, a generous community leader in California's Pajaro Valley and the first female mayor of Watsonville, California. Ann passed away at the age of 90 on January 24, 2011. She was an admired teacher that taught from the heart and touched the lives of thousands in the Pajaro Valley.

Born in Watsonville, California, on May 27, 1920, Ann received a bachelor's degree from

San Jose State University in 1942, before getting her Master's degree from Stanford University in 1954. From there, Ann began her 40-year career as an educator on California's Central Coast. In addition to teaching, Ann furthered her contribution to education through her role as principal at several schools including Aptos Junior High, where she was the first female principal. She retired from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1978. In 1999, Ann M. Soldo Elementary School was named in her honor.

Ann was the epitome of public service in the Pajaro Valley. She became involved with her local government in 1979, when she was elected to the Watsonville City Council and appointed as Vice-Mayor. From 1983 to 1987, Ann served as the first female mayor of Watsonville. Moreover, she volunteered for numerous community organizations, including the Salvation Army, YWCA, and the Pajaro Valley Historical Association. After the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, she co-chaired the fundraising drive to rebuild a local church and construction of the Henry Mello Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Speaker, Ann Soldo was an inspiring leader to so many, a woman who dedicated herself to bettering her community. Ann was proud of her Croatian heritage and took comfort in calling the Pajaro Valley home. She was preceded in death by her husband Andrew Soldo and is survived by her sister Grace Leavitt of Newport Beach, California and stepdaughter Mary Ann Jurchan of Colorado. I know that I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedicated and loving woman. Her life was a gift to her community.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF KYLE D.
KING FOR A LIFETIME OF COM-
MUNITY SERVICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Kyle D. King for his commitment to community service in Farmers Branch, Texas. Chief King retired from the City of Farmers Branch on December 31, 2010, after completing 35 years of service.

Chief King was born in Carnegie, Oklahoma, attended Southwestern State University, and graduated from Oklahoma State University. After moving to Texas, he began his employment with the City of Farmers Branch as a Fire Inspector on January 1, 1976. He rose quickly, and was promoted to Fire Protection Safety Technician in 1979, Fire Marshal in 1981, Chief Training Officer in 1985, and Fire Chief in 1991.

As Fire Chief, Mr. King held certifications as an Instructor, Master Fire Inspector, Master Fire Fighter, Master Fire Investigator, and Master Peace Officer. He was a member of the Texas and International Fire Chiefs Association and is past President of the Dallas County Fire Chiefs Association. He has most recently served as Texas State Vice President of the Southwestern Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief King has overseen the construction of several fire department buildings, including the Farmers Branch Fire Station No. 3 and the

Bob Phelps Fire Administration Building. He also helped to set up the construction documents for new Fire Station No. 1. Additionally he has supervised the implementation of a mass casualty incident task force, the development of an emergency management plan, initiation of the Citizens Fire Academy, and the beginning of the paramedic engine program. Other achievements for the department include receiving a Class 2 ISO rating, recognition for maintaining an outstanding cardiac save rate, and the maintenance of extremely low annual fire losses through innovative fire prevention programs.

Beyond his work at the Fire Department, Chief King is active in his community. A Baptist deacon for over 30 years, Chief King has held several leadership roles in First Baptist Carrollton, his home church. He is also a former Chaplain for Dallas North Gideons International and currently holds the position of Membership Chair. Additionally, he mentors middle school students through the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Chief King for his exceptional career and community service contributions to the greater north Texas area. Because of his leadership and expertise, thousands of residents in Farmers Branch receive vital services each year. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief King for his lifetime of community service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our Nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in a September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a five-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Brazil, Canada, India, the Philippines and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our Nation's security, make the administration of our immigration